

Remark

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 1, 6, 8, 22 and 28 have been amended. Claims 11-21 have been cancelled.

Therefore, claims 1-10 and 22-32 are present for examination.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that Claim 6 is allowable reciting the entire content of Claim 6. The Examiner has also indicated that Claim 4 is not allowable, in part because Reid shows applying NAT. Applicants have therefore inferred that the Examiner does not consider the NAT aspects of Claim 6 to contribute to the allowability of the Claim. In order to satisfy the Examiner's objections and expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 6 except for the NAT aspects. The NAT aspects remain in Claim 6, as amended. Note on page 7, paragraph 21, Applicants indicate that "the present invention is equally applicable to various other packet-processing applications that involve modifying all or part of the portion of the packet header that is used for cache lookup key generation."

Claim 11 has been indicated as allowable and the limitations of Claim 11 have been incorporated into Claim 8. Claim 11 is canceled.

Claim 22 has been amended in a manner similar to Claim 1 and accordingly is also believed to be allowable. The remaining dependent claims are believed to be allowable as based on an allowable independent claim and for the specific limitations set forth in each claim, respectively.

Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 8-10, 22-24-27, and 30-32 as anticipated or obvious based on Kerr, U.S. Patent No. 6,243,667 B1 ("Kerr") and Reid, U.S. Patent No. 6,182,226 B1 ("Reid"). These rejections are respectfully traversed based on the amendments above.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is hereby earnestly requested.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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